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México, September 9, 1942

PERSONAL AND
STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Sumner:

This morning while I was talking to Dr. Padilla on other matters, he said he wished to mention to me the following. As I knew, their Minister to Japan, General - (I forget his name for the moment), had just returned to Mexico City. He said that when the repatriation vessel passed through Rio de Janeiro, the General, under instructions from him, had a conversation with Aranha. On returning to Mexico City, the General reported on his conversation with Aranha to Padilla.

The General had told Aranha about conditions in Japan and the Far East as he knew them. He had impressed upon Aranha his opinion that Brazil should enter the war without delay. He had told Aranha that Japan's power must be destroyed and that our influence must be established in the Far East; that we were the only country which could keep the Japanese menace away from the Americas. He had indicated to Aranha that Japan's naval power was already affected and that it could not recoup its losses.

Aranha asked the General whether our air attack on Tokyo was a myth, or whether it had really taken place. The General told him that it had taken place; that some ten of our planes had participated in the attack and that the Japanese had shown utter incapacity to meet it.

Dr. Padilla told me he was of the opinion that the General's conversation with Aranha had great influence with him and Aranha seemed greatly interested therein. Padilla said he did not mean to say that the General's conversation with Aranha had influenced Brazil to declare war, but he said that it had undoubtedly been one of the factors. He had been especially interested that this General should talk with Aranha and particularly to urge on him Brazil's

entrance/

The Honorable
Sumner Welles,
Under Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

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entrance into the war.

With all good wishes,

Cordially and faithfully yours,

G.S. Messersmith

GSM/aw